(c) All-out efforts are being made to take adequate care for prevention of fire accidents. All Kendriya Vidyalayas have been instructed to contact the nearest fire station officer to immediately demonstrate fire safety measures to be taken in a school and to make it an annual feature to keep all students aware of the fire safety measures needed and to train teachers/students in fire drill.

CBSE has issued a circular on 26th July, 2004 for all its affiliated schools bringing to notice certain broad preventive measures, common and necessary for all schools, in the form of a questionnaire for introspection and taking necessary steps.

All Navodaya Vidyalayas have been instructed to provide fire safety equipments like fire extinguishers, water tanks etc. Construction agencies have been requested to revise their designs of plans as per the requirements of the fire safety measures. Vidyalayas have been instructed to ensure safety of children from electric fittings, hanging wires and other electric gadgets.

Students leaving country for education abroad

2001. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of students who passed senior secondary examination could not get admission in pursuit of higher studies in colleges in the country and had to go to foreign countries for further studies;

(b) if so, the number of students who went abroad for higher studies this year and their destinations; and

(c) what options have been made available for the remaining students for higher studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), presently there are 325 universities and 16,000 colleges in the country with an enrolment of about 94 lakh students. Besides, a number of universities have made provisions for higher studies through distance education. Non-availability of seats in colleges in the country may not, therefore, be the only reason for the Indian students

going abroad for further studies. No. statistical data with regard to the Indian students going abroad for higher studies is, however, maintained by the UGC.

Arunachal University

2002. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh for conversion of Arunachal University into a Central University;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In consonance with the provisions of the National Policy of Education, 1986, Central Government is not in favour of converting existing State universities into Central universities. The Government has decided to strengthen the University alongwith other State universities of the North Eastern Region.

Admissions of SC/ST in IITs

2003. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of admission of SC, ST and other candidates in the Indian Institute of Technology, year-wise, during the last three years;

(b) whether admission of SC, ST candidates has been very low as against the reservation of 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(c) what policy measures are being taken by Government to ensure admission of SC/ST as per the reservation policy and since when?